AL-HIDAYAH 1995

THE AADAAB OF THE MASJID.

Faqeeh Abu Layth Samarqandi Rahmatullah Alayhi , has mentioned some fifteen important etiquette that deserve observance (by those attending the Masjid.). We hereby list them with reference to various Ahadeeth . It is hoped that all Muslims will observe these etiquettes .

1. When entering the Masjid ,one should make salaam. If at the time of entry there are other people already present in the Masjid who are not engaged in ibaadat or tilaawat etc., then the salaam should be made in the normal masnoon manner. If there is nobody in the Masjid, or those present are busy in ibaadaat, the salaam should be made in the following words:
Assalaamu 'alaynaa mir -rabbinaa wa'alaa 'ibaadillahis - saaliheen.

" Peace be upon us from our Rabb and upon His pious servants ".

2. After entering the Masjid, two raka'at Tahiyyatul Masjid should be performed before sitting down. Rasulullaah *Sallallahu alayhi wasallam* has said:-

"When anyone from amongst you enters the Masjid, he should perform two raka'ats before sitting down".

Bukhaari

3. One should not buy or sell anything in the Masjid. Abu Hurairah *radhiyallahu anhu* narrates that Rasulullaah *Sallallahu alayhi wasallam* said :-

"When you see anyone buying or selling in the Masjid , then say: " May Allaah ta'aalaa not give you barakah (profit) in this business of yours'." (Targheeb).

4. One should not raise a sword, knife, etc. in the Masjid. Ibne `Umar *radhiyallahu anhu* narrates from Rasulullaah *Sallallahu alayhi wasallam* that there are certain actions which are improper in the Masjid:

a) The Masjid should not be made a passage or a thoroughfare.
b) One should not a raise weapon to hurt or kill someone.
c) One should not pull or twang the string of a bow.
d) One should not practice archery.
e) One should not pass through it taking (with him) raw meat.
e) `Hadd* and qisaas** should not be inflicted.
f) It should not be turned into a market place.

Ibne Maajah. Targheeb

5. One should not force himself into a row when there is not enough space, causing inconvenience to others..

6. One should not make announcements to find lost property. Abu Hurairah *radhiyallahu anhu* narrates, "I have heard from Rasulullaah *Sallallahu alayhi wasallam* that if one hears someone making an announcement in the Masjid to find his lost article then he (the hearer) should say :- " **May Allah ta'aalaa not return your object." The Masjid has not been made for this purpose.**

Abu Daawood

7. Other than for Allah's zikr (remembrance), voices should not be raised. To make noise , to talk loudly etc. are contrary to respect. If loud zikr and tilaawat causes inconvenience to someone performing Salaat, then one should recite softly.

8. One should not talk about worldly affairs. Nowadays it has become a custom of forming groups after ibaadat, to talk about worldly matters.

It is correct that kalaame mubaah (permissible conversation) is not prohibited, but the Masjid is a place of worship. To make it a place for talking is unacceptable Rasulullaah *Sallallahu alayhi wasallam said:* **"There will come a time upon people when they will talk about worldly affairs in the Masjid. At such occasions, do not sit with them. Allah ta'aalaa does not need such people".**

Rasulullaah *Sall 'u alayhi wasallam* made his statement conversation on worldly matters, whereas ngage ourselves in gheebat (back - biting), buhtaan (slander) etc.

9. One should not leap over the shoulders of others to find place in the front row. Anas Juhani *radhiyallahu anhu* narrates that Rasulullah *Sallallahu alayhi wasallam* has said:

"Whosoever leaps over the shoulders of others on Friday (i.e. Friday congregation), he will be made a bridge (leading) to Jahannam".

Tirmizi, Mishkaat

10. One should not quarrel with others in order to to obtain a place. Abdullah Ibne `Umar *radhiyallahu anhu* narrates that Rasulullah *Sallallahu alayhi wasallam* has forbidden one person from occupying a place by moving a person already sitting there before his arrival. Naafi `*rahmatullahi alayh* was asked. "Is this order only for Friday Salaat? He replied, "For Friday and all other Salaat. The order is one".

11. One should not walk across in front of someone performing Salaat. Rasulullah *Sallallahu alayhi* said, **"If a person who walks across ,in front of a person performing Salaat, had known how much sin is being committed, he would have preferred to stand and wait in that place of crossing for forty years if he had to".**

Tirmizi

12. One should not spit, clean the nose, etc in the Masjid. Similarly one should not make the Masjid filthy by killing mosquitoes,bugs, etc. Rasulullah *Sallallahu alayhi wasallam* said, **"To spit in the Masjid is a sin, and to bury (clean) it is it's expiation".**

Musannaf Abdur Razzaaq

In another Hadeeth it is stated. **"If you find a lice, etc. in the Masjid , then do not kill it in the Masjid. Instead, take it in your clothes and kill it outside after having left the Masjid".**

13. One should not crack one's bones or fingers. Allaamah Shaami *rahmatullahiI alayh* has stated , referring to Mujtabaa , that Rasulullah *Sallallahu alayhi wasallam* has forbidden us from cracking our fingers in the Masjid.

14. Safeguard the Masjid from things which make it impure. Children under the age of seven and the mentally-handicapped , should not be allowed to come to the Masjid. Rasulullah *Sallallahu alayhi wasallam* said, **"Safeguard your Masjid from small children and the mentally handicapped and from inflicting `Hadd'.**

Ibne Maajah

15 Engage in as much tilaawat, zikr and ibaadat as possible. It is stated in a Hadeeth that the Masjid is built only for the zikr of Allah, Salaat and reciting the Qur'aan.

Muslim

* `Hadd is the singular of `Hudood - the limits which Allah has set, and certain penalties prescribed by Allah.

** Qisaas means `the law of equality in punishment'.

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Allaah Ta'aala says in the Lofty Qur'aan :-

" And We imposed a duty upon Ebrahim and Ismaeel , saying : PURIFY MY HOUSE FOR THOSE WHO GO AROUND AND THOSE WHO MEDITATE THEREIN AND THOSE WHO BOW AND PROSTRATE THEMSELVES (in worship) ".

(11 : 125)

Rasulullah (S.A.W.) permitted the building of a Masjid in the locality and ordered the people thus :-

" Keep it clean and perfume it. " .

He is also reported to have said:-

"The recompense to be given to my Ummah was shown to me (during the Me'raaj) and it included the recompense for one who sweeps off dirt from the Masjid.

"(Abu Dawood - pg 66)